

# **THE NEXT STEPS TOWARD SETI SUCCESS**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The SETI League's 2003 conference is a good time to think about next steps for the SETI field. In order to achieve success, in order to detect genuine extraterrestrial intelligence (ETI), what should we do next? This paper proposes four simultaneous steps that the SETI field should pursue immediately.

- Expand the SETI League's search strategies to include a 100-telescope sky survey, optical SETI, and a Web invitation.
- Produce one or more replies to ETI in hopes that they will influence the actual reply when contact occurs.
- Make any other needed preparations for contact, such as communications, security, dealing with authorities and the media, and protecting the incoming data.
- Launch a major effort to understand (as best we can) an intelligence that is thousands of years older than humanity, and that is deeply alien.